

# North Carolina National Guard Press Release

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**TO:** News Directors, Editors, Public Service Directors  
**FROM:** Major Matt Handley  
Public Affairs Officer  
**DATE:**  
**RE:** M16 round found in Tail Light at Guard Facility

Raleigh-An ongoing investigation into the discovery of a 5.56 millimeter M16 round that was the reportedly wired to the break light of a NC Army National Guard High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) has indicated that it was not actually connected to the electrical system nor contained any gunpowder residue and there was no danger of detonation and harm to those nearby.

Investigators have determined that the severely damaged casing was severed just below the bullet and appeared to have been damaged in some other manner. The primer was intact however there was no indication that the brake light system had been tampered with in order to detonate the ordnance when the brake light was illuminated.

The recent findings have determined that there was no danger to the vehicle operator, occupants or persons nearby while this round was placed inside the light compartment.

Yet to be determined is the origin of the round, its manufacture date and the time and place it was first put into the brake light compartment.

Upon hearing the initial reports, NC National Guard officials instructed vehicles through out the fleet to be checked for similar occurrences, after several days and over two thousand three hundred inspections no other similar incidences have been reported.

The matter remains under investigation.